# NOTE IX.

## ON TWO MAMMALS FROM THE CALAMIANES-ISLANDS

BY

**Dr. F. A. JENTINK.**

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### *Mydaus meliceps* Cuvier.

The study of the geographical distribution of the Mammals over the islands of the Malayan Archipelago teaches us the fact that only a very small number of species is common to Sumatra and Borneo and at the same time to Java. The most interesting species among them is without question *Mydaus meliceps*, as it presents a most singular fact in its local distribution, as it is confined exclusively to high mountains and never seems to visit the plains [1]). It causes extensive injury to the plantations and it infects its vicinity by projecting a fetid matter of a very violent odour: two reasons why it is very hated by the inhabitants so that it never would come in any one's head to bring the animal over from Sumatra to Borneo or Java, or vice versa. We must look upon it as if a relic from a

1) See Dr. Horsfield, Zoological researches in Java and the neighbouring islands, 1824.

former fauna, by submersion of the land perhaps, pushed towards the elevated countries, the mountains.

Since more than seventy years the *Teledoe*, *Seng-goeng* or *Teleggo*, indigenous names for the animal, has been known from Java and Sumatra; the first specimen from Borneo, however, has been procured — as far as I am aware — by Mr. C. Bock from East-South-East-Borneo, and is in the Leyden Museum since 1879 (see my Catalogue Systématique des Mammifères, 1892, T. XI, p. 134), meanwhile some years ago Mr. Everett has met with it in North Borneo.

According to Mr. Everett's paper in the P. Z. S. L. 1889, »on the Zoogeographical relationships of the Island of Palawan and some adjacent Islands", a *Mydaus*-sp. (?) is known to exist in the Palawan-group; Mr. Everett however observes: »this animal has never been actually obtained, I believe, by any collector, but it has frequently been described to me by Europeans as well as by natives."

The evidence that a *Mydaus*-species actually is living in the Palawan-island grows, as I at present have to record a new and very interesting locality where the *Teledoe* occurs, namely the Calamianes-islands, lying between Palawan and Mindoro, in the Philippine-Archipelago. One specimen, a male, has been presented by Dr. Schadenberg to our Museum. It induced me to review our material and to study what has been published relating *Mydaus meliceps*.

It seems that the white line along the middle of the back is subject to rather great variation: from our large series of Java-specimens I conclude that the typical mode of coloration is, in young ones, an uninterrupted white band from the large white spot on the crown of the head to the root of the tail; this white band grows more or less inconspicuous in elder individuals and disappears in very adult ones entirely, merely leaving on the haunches a narrow white line. In some halfgrown individuals the white back-band is once or repeatedly broken off, mean-

while in a nearly adult specimen this band is very complete and extremely broad. A more than halfgrown specimen in our collection presents the following mode of coloration: on the nape a white triangle with its top towards the back, from the middle of the base of this triangle a white line runs for about half an inch towards a crista between the eyes, and from the top of the triangle goes a white line diminishing in width to about half the middle of the back of the animal, leaving no trace of white on the haunches.

Our Java-specimens show the typical brown color growing sooty brown in adult animals. I fail to detect sexual differences in the mode of coloration. As a rule the extremity of the tail is white, the basal part is colored like the rest of the body; one of our specimens, a nearly fullgrown male, has the basal part of the tail white like the rest of that organ.

Our skulls of *Mydaus*-specimens from Java present very striking and difficult to understand peculiarities, namely small skulls make the impression as if they are elder than much larger ones; so a skull long 82 mm. and broad 40 mm. has all the bones ankylosed, so that nowhere a trace of a suture is to be detected, meanwhile another much larger skull long 92 mm. and broad 44 mm. shows very distinctly all the separate bones. Have we here perhaps to deal with constant local varieties born by permanent isolation?

Specimens from Sumatra are unknown to me by autopsy and nothing has been recorded concerning differences in development of the skull in the sense above mentioned. Raffles related that one line of white runs along the back, which covers the whole crown of the head and becomes narrower as it runs backward to the tail, which is also white; the rest of the body is of a *dark-brown* color. Dr. J. E. Gray [1]) calls the Sumatra-specimens of the

1) Catalogue of Carnivorous, Pachydermatous and Edentate Mammals in the British Museum, 1869, p. 131.

British Museum, which seem to vary in the extension of the white dorsal line like our Java-specimens, *brown* colored.

Mr. Charles Hose gives in his very important paper, entitled »a descriptive account of the Mammals of Borneo", the following definition of the color of Everett's *Mydaus:* »Back *black*; crown white, reaching to the middle of back." No word about size of the animal or skull.

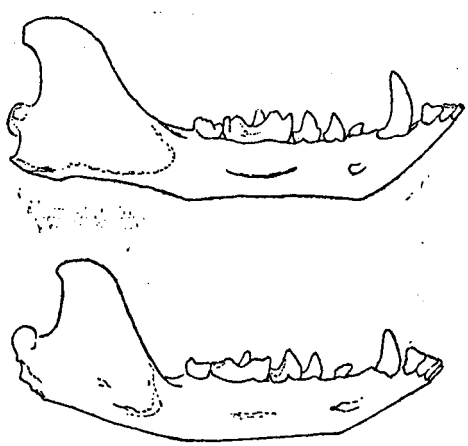
The back of our specimen from E.-S.-E. Borneo has a *black* color; the fur is coarse and very short for a *Mydaus*-specimen of such a rather small size; the large white crown-spot reaches not beyond the shoulderblades, a very narrow white line from the middle of the back to the root of tail, basal part of tail black like the back, end of tail white. This specimen, a female, makes the impression as if halfgrown, as it measures from tip of muzzle to root of tail about (it is a stuffed specimen) 37.5 cm., an examination of its skull shows however that it is by far not what it exteriorly let suppose, for, as all the bones are firmly ankylosed, it ought to belong to an elder specimen although it is in all dimensions of the same size as a halfgrown Java-individual. Compared with the above mentioned large skull with distinctly visible sutures, we note the following measurements:

| | Java-skull. | Borneo-skull. |
|---|---|---|
| greatest length . . . . . | 92 mm. | 84 mm. |
| » width . . . . . | 44 » | 42 » |
| length of bony palate. . . | 47 » | 42 » |
| » » lower jaw. . . . | 58 » | 54 » |

Of a very great importance are the lower jaws: the figures (see next page) present the differences in size and shape very distinctly, the uppermost figure is that of the Java-skull, the lower one that of the Borneo-skull. The dentition demonstrates that in fact the smallest skull is the eldest, all the teeth being more used off.

Finally our specimen from the Calamianes-islands. It

measures about 37 cm. (it was a skin without bony spine) that is of the same size as our Borneo-specimen; its skull has been smashed and was for the rest in a very bad state of conservation as it evidently has been preserved in a liquid which attacked and softened the bones.



The fur is much longer than that of the Borneo-*Mydaus* and, contrary to the harsh fur of the latter, very soft to the touch. The color of the back is black, only a very few here and there scattered white hairs are to be detected where in all the specimens from the above named localities the large crown-spot adorns the head; no trace of white line along the middle of the back, no white tip to the tail, all those parts being of a uniform black like the rest of the back.

As I observed above, the skull has been smashed, the unbroken anterior part however leaves not in doubt, the dentition moreover can prove it, that the animal is a full grown one. And now it appears, that the skull is much smaller in all dimensions, nay still smaller than the above discussed Borneo-skull. The lower jaw (see the figure) measures not more than 46 mm.; its basal part describes a curved line such like in the lower jaw of the Borneo-skull, indeed a striking difference between these skulls and the Java-one, of which a figure of the lower jaw above. Compared with the other ones the Calamianes-skull has

the anterior half a good deal shorter, the hindmost upper molar is stouter and of a relative larger size, the hindmost lower molar is stronger and the penultimate lower molar is a much more developed tooth: it measures 9 mm. in the large Java-skull, 8 mm. in the smaller Borneo-skull, and 10 mm. in the still much smaller Calamianes-skull!

The claws of the Calamianes-specimen are less developed and do not attain the enormous size as in specimens from other localities.

In conclusion I do not know whether the Sumatra-*Mydaus* differs from the Java-*Mydaus meliceps*, I am inclined to believe that the Borneo-*Mydaus* may perhaps belong to an other, although to *Mydaus meliceps* closely allied species, but it seems to me that the Calamianes-*Mydaus* differs in so many points — in size, color, skull and dentition — that it deserves to be separated under a new specific title. I propose to call it *Mydaus Schadenbergii* after its discoverer.

The geographical range of the genus *Mydaus* is so far as we at present know: Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Palawan? and the Calamianes-islands.

## *Herpestes brachyurus* Gray.

Described in 1837, recorded in 1846 from the Malayan Peninsula and in the Zoology of the Samarang in 1850 from Borneo, the first specimen of this species from Sumatra reached Europe in 1888; it had been collected by Dr. Hagen in Siak and is since in our Museum (N. L. M. 1889, p. 23). In P. Z. S. L. 1889, p. 223, *H. brachyurus* has been enumerated by Mr. Everett among the mammals which are known to exist in the Palawan-group. Where a specimen from the latter locality has been preserved for control of that statement I do not know, but certainly not in the British Museum, as Palawan is a locality that

I fail to detect in the list of the specimens of *H. brachyurus* in the British Museum, kindly sent to me by Mr. Oldfield Thomas.

Together with the *Mydaus*-specimen Dr. Schadenberg presented to our Museum a *Herpestes*-specimen from the same interesting locality — the Calamianes-islands.

This specimen is of about the same size as an adult *H. brachyurus*-specimen and differs from all other *Herpestes*-species together with *H. brachyurus* by its short tail.

Although our Sumatra-specimen seems to be somewhat darker colored than our Borneo-individual from Büttikofer's collections, and its skull (both specimens are apparently fullgrown) somewhat smaller, I think there can be no doubt as to their specific identity.

The Calamianes-specimen, however, presents a less dark colored hue, the extremities are not black, and the light rings which produce the grizzled appearance are of a reddish brown; the tail is less hairy, meanwhile these hairs are of a blackish brown color. The named differences in mode of coloring may be unimportant, I confess it, but together with striking differences in the bony parts they become of more significant value.

That the Calamianes-specimen is very adult, is proved by the ankylosed skull-bones, but above all things by the very weared out condition of the dentition and by the absence of some small teeth; even no trace can be detected of the alveoles of three wanting upper and lower incisors and of the absent anterior small upper and lower premolars. And this very old skull is a good deal smaller than the skull of our old [1]) Sumatra-specimen, as the following figures may illustrate:

| | Sumatra-sp. | Calamianes-sp. |
|---|---|---|
| greatest length of skull. . . . | 91 mm. | 76 mm. |
| » broadness of braincase . | 34 » | 31 » |

1) It is so old, that the midmost right upper incisor and the first right premolar have fallen out and their alveoles are filled up by bony substance.

| | Sumatra-sp. | Calamianes-sp. |
|---|---|---|
| length of upper molar series [1]). . | 31 mm. | 25 mm. |
| » » lower » » . . | 32.5 » | 28 » |

We actually have to deal here with a smaller form of *H. brachyurus* in accordance with the smaller island where it is living. If it deserves a distinct name, it may be called *H. parvus*.

1) Taken from the posterior basal part of the canine.